

On page 14, third paragraph, line 24 and 25, delete "U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/597,724" and replace it with -U.S. Patent No. 6,195,018—

B² "In another embodiment, the pathway devices 40-42 can analyze the periodic measurements by one or more meters 10-17 to generate a metered function. The generation of metered functions at the collection device level is described in above-identified U.S. Patent Application Serial no. 08/597,724.

On page 18, second paragraph, line 6 and 7, delete "U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/597,724" and replace it with -U.S. Patent No. 6,195,018—

B³ "Sensor 34 and other components of meter 10 are described in more detail in above-identified U.S. Patent Application Serial no. 08/597,724."

One page 13, second paragraph, line 11, delete "connection over", and replace it with -connection 56 over—

BA "Pathway devices 40-42 also have various internet interfaces for connecting to the Internet, or any other equivalent network. Pathway device 40 is connected to Internet 50 by an Ethernet connection 52. Ethernet connection 52 is a part of a corporate LAN and is located behind a firewall 45, which runs proxy services for the corporate LAN and provides a connection 55 to Internet 50. Pathway device 41 is connected to Internet 50 through a wireless connection 54. Pathway device 42 is connected to Internet 50 by a dial-up point-to-point protocol (PPP) connection 56 over a telephone line on a public-switched telephone network (PSTN). The network connections 54, 55, or 56 can be either static internet connections using a always-on corporate LAN, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) modem, cable modem or others, or they can be Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) connections which are not continuously connected to Internet 50. Pathway devices 40-42 filter transmissions from meters 10-17 and forward the transmissions to data processing center 60 over Internet 50 or other equivalent networks."

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 18, 28, 41, 47, 49, 51, 52 and 61 as follows: